

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

*Larry Meredith, Ph.D., Director*

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
***PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE***  
920 GRAND AVENUE  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94901  
PHONE: (415) 499-6841  
FAX: (415) 499-6855  
***Fred S. Schwartz, M.D.***  
Health Officer

## **///// PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE /////**

**February 3, 2004**

**TO: Hospital-based and other health care providers**  
**FROM: Nathalie Bera, MD, MPH, Deputy Public Health Officer, Marin County**  
**RE: Avian Influenza Update – New Reporting & Viral Culture Instructions**

Dear Hospital-Based and other Health Care Providers:

This is just a brief note to describe and clarify the most updated procedure for Avian Influenza specimen submittal. On our website is the updated instruction sheet. **As per the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), all suspected cases of Avian Influenza in Marin County must first be reported to and reviewed with the Marin County Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Communicable Disease Unit before submittal to the CDHS Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory.** Report suspected cases Monday through Friday 8:30am-5pm to Marin County Communicable Disease: (415) 499-7805. If you need reach a Health Officer after hours, call County Communication Center (415) 499-7237, 7235, or 7238. Thank you very much for looking out for such cases and collaborating with us on this.

Sincerely,  
Nathalie Bera

Nathalie Bera, MD, MPH  
Deputy Public Health Officer  
Dept. Health & Human Svcs, County of Marin  
20 N. San Pedro Rd, Ste 2004  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Phone 415.507.2588  
Fax 415.499.3791  
nbera@co.marin.ca.us